

Summary

Applicant has rewritten Claim 1, cancelled Claims 2-4, and added Claims 8-11. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 5-11 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over by Misawa (JP 2001044710A) in view of Hempel (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0030501). Claims 3 and 7 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

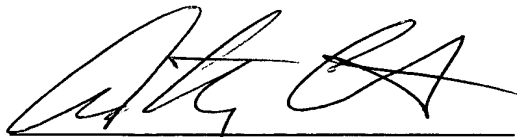
Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 3. Applicants have also added Claims 8-11. Independent Claim 8 incorporates the elements of objected to Claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1 and 5-11 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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